

Crossing

A PUBLICATION OF ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE • VOL.2 NO 3 • MAY 1995

RCC Scholars Recognized at 23rd Honors Assembly

Members of the RCC community recognized the academic achievements of 77 students awarded Dean's and President's List honors and 29 scholarship recipients at the 23rd Honors Assembly of Roxbury Community College, held on April 20th in the Media/Arts Building auditorium. Mr. Nestor M. Rios, executive director of La Alianza Hispana, gave the keynote address. Mr. Rios shared his personal struggles as a Latino from a working class family in an urban environment and the rewards he gained from his education at the City College of New York, an urban public institution of higher learning much like Roxbury Community College.

Mr. Rios encouraged RCC students to "remember and practice the habit of investing in your most precious resource, your mind. Your presence at this college ceremony already makes a powerful statement towards your understanding of this principle. However, do not forget this habit when you leave schooling behind. Your mind is your most powerful weapon for survival and the more you put within its range for analysis the greater your opportunities to survive in this quickly changing world. Feed it with a broad asse-

nal of history, philosophy, science and the arts and it will pay major dividends for you; after all, it is the only human organ that actually improves with age. Use it to honestly examine your values and desires, for these are the true springboards for a happy and productive career. Resolve that whatever you undertake now or in the future you will put your mind to work at it to the best of its ability; that is what real experiential learning is all about. And look back often on the mental trail you will blaze for yourself in both its quality and direction, you will be amazed at what this exercise can accomplish for you and at what it will suggest to you as a course for future action."

RCC students receiving \$250 scholarships at the Honors Assembly included: Sara Chin, Morgan Commodore, Janice Graham, Silvie Kouanya, Carolyn Merisca, Jose Amaro, Wai Ling Chan, Roslyn Marshall, Betty Jackson, Shirley-Ann Depeiza, Abbey Dumasi, Virgenmina Ortiz, Chonda Cleckley, Gloria Miller-Nichols, Altagracia Mayers, Ygraciledis Pena, Bonnie Torres, Pamela Kee, Irena Lisek, Claude Pretorius, Elizabeth Estrada, Ronald Sadm, Strawady Valeria Forbes, Rosa

Argueta, Sanjay Dadd, Maricel Goris, Mary Finley, Yanira Gonzalez, and Wanda Roman. These students carried 12 or more college-level credit hours (days) or at least 6 college-level credits (evenings) with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 or above (and no grade lower than a C) during the Fall 1994 semester. Students were nominated by faculty and confirmed by the RCC Scholarship and Honors Committee. Chaired for the 1994-95 academic year by Professor Chiso Ndukwe-Okafor of the Office Technology Department and Holly Guran, Director of Counseling & Placement Services, other members of the Committee include: Professor Alex Asare, Mathematics; Professor Jose Gonzalez, ESL; Professor Thomas Reeves, Social Science, Professor Trudy Thompson, Nursing; Phillip Durant, student representative; and Julie Ann Huggins, student representative.

Ms. Caroline Chang, a member of the Board of Directors of the RCC Foundation, whose contributors provide the scholarships awarded at the Honors Assembly, served as emcee of the event.

Eileen Meny

Update On Accreditation Team Visit

An eight-member visit team visited RCC on April 9-12. They conducted a thorough validation of the Self-study Report the College submitted to NEASC two months ago. The visit included reviewing documents, conducting group meetings, interviewing individuals and visiting the two campuses, the Chinatown off-site location and the Reggie Lewis Track Facility and Athletic Center.

The team met with the Secretary of Education, Dr. Piedad Robertson, the community leaders, RCC Foundation representatives, over 68% of the Board of Trustees, over 70% of the full-time faculty, over 75% of the classified/confidential staff, almost all of the professional staff and all of the administrators. The team conducted one special meeting with the student leaders and the other open meeting with RCC students. More than 30 students participated in that meeting. The team also met with leaders of all college constituencies. All of these meetings were initiated and conducted by the team members.

The team conducted an exit interview at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 12, 1995. The Steering Committee, the President's Cabinet, self-selected student representatives and interested faculty members attended the exit interview. The exit interview was conducted by Dr. Cortada, the team chair. The interview presentation followed the NEASC eleven standard format.

The content of the exit interview is summarized as follows:

1

Mission and Purpose

The College has a mission no other institutions in the Commonwealth performs. The College has been faithfully implementing its mission and has made a difference in the community. The institution is important to the community it serves and must be protected. Indeed the College is the reflection of the community. However, the College needs to continue to review its mission and adjust to the community needs. The team finds the mission statements published in the several college publications slightly different in wording. The team recommended that mission revision should drive the budget.

2

Planning and Evaluation

The team highly commend the college's planning efforts in the recent years and viewed the College as a land full of great seeds some of which had shown healthy sprouts and others almost in blossom. The College is full of hope if stability can be maintained. The team recommended that the College strengthen its student assessment efforts to constantly examine how the College serves its stu-

dents. The team also recommended that the assessment and evaluation should drive planning and all three should be linked to budget.

3

Governance and Organization

The team highly commended the Board for their support to the College and the new administration for being a highly committed and competent team. The team felt that if the College could largely maintain the current team, the College could be in a very good shape in five years. The team was pleased to see that the necessary institutional restructuring was moving towards the end. The team was also pleased to see the participatory governance body—Acuerdo—is being revived. The team recommended that the Board should be more involved in lobbying the state legislature and take speedy measures to fill the board vacancies. The team felt that the Board policies need to be codified. Regarding the internal structure, the team felt the emphasis should be given to establishment of processes and strengthening communication. The team recommended to publish a weekly events calendar to facilitate the communication process. The team urged to simplify the Acuerdo structure and stronger president and student participation in the Acuerdo.

Program and Instruction

The team confirmed that the fundamental and primary functions of the College—teaching and learning—do get performed. The team described our faculty as dedicated and competent professionals and our students hard-working and anxious learners. The team concurred with the College's recognition of strengthening our developmental education to better serve our student population. The team urged the College to improve student data management, particularly in the areas of graduation rate, retention rate, transfer rate and ESL student performance. The team commended our nursing program and suggested that we speed up the application for accreditation.

Faculty

The team assured us that the College should be proud of its faculty and highly commended the role of faculty in the Acuerdo. The team recommended that the faculty's role in budget and policy decisions needs to be strengthened. The team recommended that the Human Resources Office update the faculty vita and transcripts periodically.

Student Service

The team applauded the RCC students' efforts and determination for their achievements. The team recommended that the College need to improve its effort in establishing strong student identity and nurturing student dignity. While the team recognized the College's fiscal constraints, the team felt the College needs to strengthen its student services.

Library and Information Resources

The team commended the College's extraordinary effort to maintain the library with limited resources. The team urged the College to continue the effort to obtain the funds and stabilize the funding for the library.

Financial and Physical Resources

Whereas the team recognized enormous progress and improvement in financial management of the institution, the area remains the top concern of the team. The team reported that the institution was financially viable but was on the border line and thus need immediate actions such as the appointment of an internal auditor, strengthening record keeping, etc. The team was concerned about the

uncollectible debts of \$600,000. The team was pleased with the maintenance team and recommended to improve the service by creating order of work.

Public Disclosure

The team restated its recommendation for producing student outcome data to inform the public about the College's service to its students and the community.

Integrity

The team applauded the College's effort in producing the policies and procedures and recommended that the College focus its efforts on timely dissemination of these policies and procedures. In addition, the College needs to compile a policy manual and strengthen the procedures thus the implementation processes.

The team chair will submit the first draft of the team report to the President and the College by May 10. On May 24, the second draft will be sent to the President with the comments from the President and the College being incorporated. In early June, the team report will be submitted to the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, NEASC. The Commission will review the team report and team recommendation for re-accreditation and make a decision in fall, 1995.

**'75 RCC Graduate
Helen Springle**

Helen Springle, 1975 graduate of RCC, is a dancer by profession and by the heart. She currently resides in Switzerland and has the dual citizenship. Helen speaks fluent French and German and owns her own dance theater company. As a dancer, teacher and director of musicals, she toured all over Switzerland and Paris and most of Europe. She is very proud of what she has accomplished and wishes to thank all the people at RCC for giving her what she needed. More importantly, Helen wants to tell every RCC student that everyone can be successful if he/she dares to dream.

At the age of 18, Helen graduated from high school. With the dream and determination to become a dancer and director in theater, she came to RCC to begin her education. Her active participation in all kinds of student activities and outstanding academic performance won her an award from RCC in 1976. Besides academic skills, RCC gave her what she needs for living in the real world: self-esteem and dreams.

"Everything is possible if you keep your dreams alive", said Helen in an interview with Crossing editor Jianping Wang. "Dreams are very important to me. I always wanted to be a dancer. And I am now. I always wanted to be a teacher. And I am now. I always wanted to be abroad. And I am now. I always wanted to be able

to speak foreign languages. And I do now." Dreams not only keep Helen moving forward but also give her outflowing energy for the teenage both in the United States and in Europe.

**Former ESL Students
Say Program Is a
Success**

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Roxbury Community College is a vital part of the curriculum and provides guidance, support, and motivation to foreign students looking to improve their career opportunities in the United States. Two graduates of the ESL program of RCC, Stephanie Rodriguez and Betina Rodriguez (by the way they are not biologically related), are now giving back to their community by working at RCC and continuing to provide a support network to current ESL students.

Stephanie Rodriguez came to Boston from the Dominican Republic in 1989 and registered for classes in the Spring of 1990. Because she had some background in English, Stephanie was placed into ESL level four and was able to complete the program in one year. She then went on to regular classes at the college and received her Associate Degree in Business two years later. Currently a clerk at

RCC, Stephanie spoke highly of the program, "it enhanced my English and especially my grammar. It opened up many opportunities for me. I worked for Shawmut Bank for a year after I graduated .. but then I wanted to come back to RCC ... and provide guidance to others..." Stephanie acknowledged the fear that she felt when entering a new country where she didn't speak the language well. She hopes that by working at the college, she can relieve this type of fear in others. As an inspiration to her family, Stephanie convinced



her father to also join the ESL program at RCC. He is currently in his final semester.

Betina Rodriguez, like Stephanie, stated that one of her priorities is to provide community support to students in the ESL program. As Betina said, "When I first came here, I didn't know where

to go, how to do things... I felt completely lost... I want to give back to students what I didn't have..." Betina is also from the Dominican Republic and came to Boston in August, 1982. At first, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do but three years later she realized that she needed to go back to school. Therefore, in the Spring of 1985, Betina began the ESL program at RCC. The program at the time was organized slightly differently than it is now comprised of beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Betina entered into the intermediate level and finished in two semesters. When asked about the quality of the teaching,



Betina commended one professor for "using newspapers for conversation and relating the class material to everyday life." After finishing ESL, Betina went into college classes for one semester. However, she then left school for three years to have her second and third daughters. On returning to school in 1989, Betina finished her studies and graduated with a degree

in word-processing in 1992. She now works at RCC as an Administrative Assistant.

Both women felt that the ESL program at RCC is essential for people in the community. As Stephanie said, "this is one of the most affordable programs for many people... If the program wasn't here, people in the area would have to travel to four-year colleges, most of which do not have bilingual programs." RCC has been an important influence in both of their lives. When asked of her first im-

pressions of the college, Betina remembered, "when I first started at RCC, I realized that there's a whole other world out there... if I had stayed only within the Hispanic community, speaking Spanish, I would not have seen what opportunities are available out there for me..." Betina also praised RCC on its diversity, "Coming to RCC has helped me to know people from all over the world... I meet all different types

of people and get a little bit from everyone ...It is, as they say, a melting pot."

*Stacey Liederman,
Student Intern from
Tufts University*

You Can Never Change These Blue Eyes

Michelle Nanton is RCC student majoring in Humanities. She enjoys writing and is currently taking Journalism I.

Shackled and chain

I felt his pain

Those long miles he was dragged

Fighting and screaming, longing for the life he once had

They give him a new name

and his life will never be the same

He was stolen from his land

A slave no longer a man

He worked on many plantations

Picking cotton and getting sun burned

He was badly beaten

for ignorant reasons

His skin scarred and tanned

Cuts and bruised all around

His hair a muddy gold

All because he's been bought and sold

Yes, I have felt his pain for many years

Being spat at, looked down at and being scared

Every day he goes down by the bay

Not to Bathe, just to say

You've taken away my freedom, my culture and told me lies

But, you can never change these blue eyes

Michelle Nanton

From RCC Students

The stories represent the work of students of the newly-created Journalism I class here at RCC. It is hoped that a student-run newspaper will be born in the near future.

"Out With the Old" is No Longer "In"

Older Workers Not Retiring As Early As They Used To

Today's Companies should look for ways to keep their Older Employees on the job instead of forcing them to retire at the age of sixty five.

Sixty five is the traditional age for Workers to retire in the United State. Conventional Wisdom says that they have fulfilled their work obligation and should now leave Job openings for those on the way up the Career ladder, including young people just starting out.

First and most important, if Companies do not retain their Older Workers, they may run out of Workers. Census figures tell us that America is growing Older. In 1982, One American in five was over fifty-five; By the year 2020 one American in three will be over fifty five.

Right now, there are more Americans over Sixty-five than teenagers, and the pool of new Workers between Sixteen and twenty-four is shrinking rapidly.

Shortages of new workers have already occurred in such vital fields as nursing and teaching. The growing number of Older Workers will fill all kinds of service positions from Security guards, Limousine drivers, and Hotel clerks to Media advisors, Political lobbyists, and Insurance claims adjusters.

Some People say that Older Workers cost too much, but that is not true. According to Mike Bradford, a Corporate agent for Metropolitan Insurance Company, while Older Workers may command higher wages they miss fewer work days than younger workers, and file fewer medical Insurance claims.

Bradford, adds that it costs a Company less to insure a Sixty-year-old employee with one or no dependents than to insure a thirty five year old employee with a spouse and two children.

A study done in Great Britain in 1994 found that sixty year olds were more productive than twenty year olds in many kinds of work. Many large and small Companies that keep and even recruit Older Employees report good results. For example, Macy's the famous New York department Store, has never practiced mandatory retirement and values its Older workers. McDonald's now actively recruits from senior Citizens Club for its special "McMaster" training program, offering a choice of days, hours, and Jobs to trainees.

Travelers Insurance, a large firm in Connecticut, has created a number of attractive work options for its Older Employees. A final example is Health Wise, a small publishing house, half of whose employees are over fifty-five. All these Companies are profiting from the sound judgment, personal skills,

and accumulated experience of Older Employees.

Finally, as our population changes and grows, more Companies will have to change too. Although Younger Employees might not appreciate the competition, smart Employers will keep their Older workers on the job.

James Hussey

In Boomer's Baseball, Education Comes First

RCC Baseball Flourishes Under Scott

Sitting back in the big, black chair in his office, surrounded by what he refers to as "inspirational" memorabilia is Roxbury Community College's baseball program head and coach George "Boomer" Scott. The former Red Sox slugger recollected, but not regretfully, about many things including an offer he once received to coach at the University of Miami and how he couldn't get the position because he didn't have a degree. He earnestly advises all athletes to "prepare yourself, acquire skills or learn a trade. Even if you have talent get an education."

Scott, a Mississippi native raised by his mother since a year old when his father died, said he began playing baseball with friends in the neighborhood and learned by doing just that, playing. After graduating from high school he bypassed college for something even today's athletes don't go to or leave college for, money.

He said "It was a way for me to help my mother, buy her a house, and make a better living for them than the one he had growing up."

And this he did. He started playing for the Red Sox in 1966 and in his second year the team won the Pennant. He played for the Sox until 1979 when he was traded to Kansas City and then to New York. 1979 was also his last year as a professional baseball player.

The RCC baseball program is now in its second year. For Scott, unlike his other positions which include being manager of the Mexico City Tigers from '83 to '86 and a coach in the Empire League, this program is his project. This season the team is on a five game winning streak after losing its first four and is hoping for a successful finish. Scott said some of the things he would like to see for RCC Baseball is a division change from III to I or II, athletes leaving the program with scholarships to four-year colleges, and an athletics dormitory, he also said, almost jokingly, "Once I saw the program get to where I would like to see it—I would ride off into the sunset on my white horse." As for where Scott sees himself in five years, "In a recliner, at home, watching ESPN." But for now, in addition to the RCC program, he has baseball camps in Boston and Mississippi that bears his name, he's going to coach for a Double A Independent League this summer in Canada. He will be back in the fall though, in his office on the third floor of the Student Center making plans for next season.

Joanna Holloway

Listyev, Russian Icon, Murdered

Thousands flocked to Vagankovo Cemetery to honor Vladislav Listyev, a popular television personality. His tragic death brought the Russian people, split by their national, political, and economical problems, for a time,

together in sorrow. Listyev, 38, was gunned down in the lobby of his apartment house Wednesday, March 1.

"His death is the evidence that morality and kindness have disappeared from Russia," said Viktor Karzov, an engineer from St. Petersburg, now a student of Roxbury Community College.

"It was not only the people's idol's death," Mark Steinberg, a retired PhD, said, "it was the death of the remains of our faith in our country's survival."

In February 1995 Listyev became the director of Russian Public Television. He promised to take control of commercials on Russian TV which were and now continue to be in the hands of the mafia. "Behind his death there are people who care only about money," Martina Vyadro, a journalist from Kiev, another RCC student, said.

The name "Vladislav" means "somebody who is owed glory" and it fitted him well. "The only professionals in Russia now are killers," Mira Orlova, an engineer from Kiev, remarked.

Listyev became known to the Soviet people in 1978, when four young, talented, and ambitious journalists created a new live television show, "The View".

It was a challenging and unalloyed attempt to speak openly about the lives behind the iron curtain, about the mafia on the top, about the people who tried to survive and to save their dignity.

Certainly, this attempt was not entirely successful: some programs were prohibited and sometimes the live programs were disrupted because the journalists were too close

to exposing the top figures in government.

After several years of growing popularity and multiplying problems with authorities, the production group split.

Vladislav Listyev created and provided a new entertainment program called "The Fortune Wheel." It was another challenge to Soviet TV which was never meant to provide entertainment without communist propaganda. He carved his way through the establishment of Soviet official TV. He found sponsors (it was a completely new word for Russians). He became the first show host on Soviet TV.

His image as an erudite, calm, friendly and handsome man with a fascinating smile, which never seemed phony to viewers became well known throughout the country.

In 1994 Listyev created a new program and became the host of "Traffic Time," a popular interview show. He interviewed many politicians, writers, and actors. During his turbulent time, he continued to be straight and show concerns.

"Any king is going over the edge of a cliff," Listyev told. He was not the first famous man who became a target of assassination. The priest Alexander Men and the journalist Dmitry Kholodov who tried to investigate Russian generals corruption were killed in the middle of Moscow in the bright light and nobody was ever accused of the murder. Russian people don't believe that the killer would be found. Many people now call for strong power to protect human citizens from hired killers. Such ways lead to a police state, in the opinion of many Russian people.

Viktoriya Galinovskaya

News and Updates

Computer Project

The College has recently purchased 25 power Mac systems for a new laboratory. The system has the ability to run both Macintosh and Window applications. The College has also purchased 30 Laser printers for Laboratory and business offices and 15 dot matrix printers to outfit either current or new laboratories. The new laboratory is expected to be ready for the fall semester.

President's Open Office Hours

President Brown will resume her open office hours on Tuesday between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please stop by and chat with the President over a cup of coffee or tea. For the month of May, the President will have her open office hours in the Student cafeteria. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 541-5301.

Acuerdo Meeting

The Acuerdo will have its semester last meeting at 3:00p.m. on May 16 at the Academic Affairs Conference Room. If you have any concerns, comments and suggestions, please forward them to your assembly chairs/representatives: JoAnn Mulready-Shick and Isabel Matineau for faculty, Tomas

Gonzalez for students, Annette Duglin and Jeremy Ryan for confidential/classified staff, Henry Jung and Elizabeth Leon for professional and Stephen Griffin for Administration. Thanks to the active participation of all constituencies, the Acuerdo has made progresses in the past academic year and we look forward to a more fruitful year ahead.

From ESL Faculty

The following ESL faculty members were elected to the Board of MATSOL (Massachusetts Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages):

Sterling Giles,
Publisher Representative
Karen Samuelson,
Sociopolitical Concerns Representative

Foster Parent of the Year

Martha Lambert was selected as Foster Parent of the Year by the Massachusetts Association For Professional Foster Care and the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. She will receive recognition at a celebration in honor of the 1995 Massachusetts All-Star Foster Parents at the Sharaton Tara in Framingham on May 21, 1995.

Martha has been a foster parent for approximately five and half

years and have had a total of 35 children in her home. She truly enjoyed helping, teaching, guiding and encouraging those children.

We thank her for opening her home and taking children to heart. Congratulations!

If anyone is interested in becoming a foster parent, please call DSS office in your area for information. Foster parents are desperately needed.

Welcome

RCC family welcomes David A. Fraizer as Director of the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center(RLTAC), Michael J. Harris as acting Assistant to the Director of RLTAC and John Thomas as Director of Athletic Programs. We wish them great success in their career at RCC.

Condolences

In this season, three RCC employees lost their loved ones. We would like to extend our sincere condolences to Barbara Burgess, Ellen Simons and Doris Woods. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. We are confident that their strength, courage and love for their loved ones will carry them through this very difficult period of time in their life.

C r o s s i n g P r o d u c t i o n S t a f f

Editor

Jianping Wang




All contributions are from the Editor unless otherwise specified.

Designer

Boris Tahmasian

Typist & Distributor




Jeremy Ryan



*The President, Trustees, Faculty,
Staff and Class of 1995
of
Roxbury Community College
request the honor of your presence
at the*

*Twenty-First Commencement Exercises
on Friday, the second of June
nineteen hundred and ninety-five
at three o'clock*

*Roxbury Community College
Media/Arts Building
1234 Columbus Avenue
Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts*



Multi-Cultural Celebration



Artist: Napoleon Jones-Henderson

*Come celebrate the diverse richness
of our cultural family at Roxbury
Community College.*

*An Evening of Music,
Dance, and Food.*

*Wednesday, May 31, 1995
6:00PM to 11:00PM
Student Center*

*For Reservations and
More Information
Call 541-5305*

A t t i r e : F e s t i v e
